

# The News-Journal

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50¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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Hoke's top stories are on the web  
www.thenews-journal.com

## This week



A day of remembrance for fallen heroes

Henry McKoy inspires students

Inmate escapee is captured

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Voters watched as precinct results were posted in the window of The News-Journal office. Final results were tallied at approximately 11:30 p.m.

## Democrats return Daniels, choose Powell, Cameron

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

Democrats voted to return Charles V. Daniels to the commissioner seat he holds and chose newcomers Jean Powell and Bill Cameron as his running mates against two Republican candidates, one Libertarian and at least one write-in candidate in November.

In unofficial results, retired district attorney Powell led the votes with 2,619; cattle rancher Cameron came in second with 2,363; and Daniels, a service station owner and operator, received 2,235 votes. They edged out attorney Harry Southerland at 1,839, and minister and property manager James Oscar Cunningham at 1,765.

(See COMMISSION RACE, page 9A)

## Hollingsworth wins clerk of court race

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

In a close primary race, incumbent Clerk of Court Vera Hollingsworth won her bid to return for another term of office. A Democrat, Hollingsworth re-

ceived intense competition from challenger Tim Hawkes, also a Democrat. Hollingsworth claimed 72.7 percent of the votes, earning 2,858. Hawkes trailed with 2,144 votes.

As Hoke's clerk of Superior Court. (See CLERK RACE, page 9A)

## Peterkin wins Democrat spot for Hoke sheriff Davis out, Crull Republican nominee

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

In a primary race marked by lower than expected voter turnout, Sheriff Jim Davis was defeated for reelection yesterday.

Distinguished as the first African American to be elected as Hoke sheriff, Davis was knocked out by Democrat Hubert Peterkin, an African American as well, and a Fayetteville Police detective and Hoke native.

Davis received 1,776 votes, but Peterkin captured 2,857 votes.

High number in one-stop advance voting promised a heavy turnout for the primary, but in the end, only roughly a third of registered voters cast votes.

Democrat challenger Joe Troxell, a former probation officer with N.C. Probation and Parole, earned 588 votes.

Robert Crull, a Hoke County Schools resource safety officer, won the Republican nomination for sheriff with 338 votes. He was challenged by Robert Colson, a communications specialist, who received 175 votes.

In November's election, Peterkin and Crull will square off to determine who will become Hoke's next sheriff. Davis has served one term as sheriff since December 1998. Peterkin formerly served as Davis' chief deputy and major for more than one year. Crull and Colson

also previously served as Hoke deputies.

Peterkin said he was grateful for the victory. Peterkin will resume his responsibilities at Fayetteville PD as he continues to campaign for sheriff after being on temporary leave.

"I want to thank God first, my campaign committee and Raz Autry, the greatest campaign manager," Peterkin said. "Thanks to Raeford Mayor Bob Gentry, Dr. M.H. Williams, the Rev. Ray Owens and my church congregation, my wife Della, my mother Onnie Peterkin, and the Fayetteville Police Department for believing in me."

Peterkin said his dream has always been to be the best law enforcement officer — a goal he will continue to pursue as sheriff.

"I want to commend Sheriff Davis for all his efforts he has made for Hoke County as its sheriff," Peterkin said. "I appreciate the opportunity that he gave me to be chief deputy. I want to extend my hand to him, hoping if there are any differences that we can reconcile those for the good of our community."

Peterkin commended Troxell for the professional race he ran and his cordial manner during the campaign.

Davis was unavailable for comment.

Troxell, a Hoke cattleman-farmer, expressed disappointment at his loss because, he said, he "ran to win." He said Peterkin was a strong candidate and ran an

(See SHERIFF RACE, page 9A)



## Honoring, remembering

The Hillcrest Baptist Church Choir joins the congregation in a pledge to the American flag Sunday at a ceremony honoring those who serve in the military, law enforcement, EMS, firefighting and as government leaders. Also remembered were those who lost their lives September 11, 2001. Posting the Colors was the 18th Airborne Corps Artillery Color Guard. See related article on page 7A.

## ABCs report shows Hoke schools improving

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Statewide test results being released by the Department of Public Instruction through its ABC accountability program show Hoke is making progress.

There were no low performing schools in Hoke, nor any others that verged on a low-performing classification, according

to Hoke County School Superintendent Allen Strickland.

"That is good news," Strickland said. "Our schools are continuing to improve and doing much better than many other schools in the state."

"We are continuing to reduce the number of students who are scoring below mastery," he said. "We reduced that number by 58 students this year."

Strickland said the majority of Hoke schools improved on the state's end-of-grade and end-of-course test scores during 2001-2002, but a few fell a fraction below the 2000-2001 scores. New criteria implemented by the state this year measured levels of improvement with a more stringent combination of test performance and school growth, he added.

(See ABCs, page 8A)

## State team meets with Hoke school superintendent

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

State educators from the Department of Public Instruction are going "shoulder to shoulder" with Hoke school administrators to help improve educational opportunities for at-risk students in Hoke, said Deputy State Superintendent Bradford Sneed, leader of the assistance team. He heads a team that arrived last week to help address the needs of at-

risk children.

Sneed conferred with Hoke School Superintendent Allen Strickland and his staff last Thursday, "connecting" with the need for new policies and plans to help students succeed.

"Terrific!" Sneed said of the visit. "We had a terrific conversation with Mr. Strickland. His staff did a great job talking about the overall characteristics of Hoke and what is going on in the school system."

Sneed also commended Strickland for their planning and strategy.

"It was not just a response to satisfy the job," Sneed said. "It was a plan to tap the potential of all students in Hoke."

Strickland described the meeting with state officials as "positive." He said Hoke's educators would match up with the state's departments in mutual expertise.

"I feel strongly that we can make this

(See STATE TEAM, page 8A)

## City audit reflects loss of revenue from Burlington Industries bankruptcy

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

Raeford's tax collection rate dropped this past fiscal year, according to auditor James F. Baker, but there is an explanation: Burlington Industries, which is in Chapter 11 bankruptcy litigation, has not paid more than \$100,000 in inventory taxes.

The tax collection rate dropped from 96.27 percent for the previous fiscal year to 87.68 percent this FY, according to Baker.

In giving his annual audit report, Baker had no criticism regarding the city's book-keeping and said he received the "utmost cooperation from staff."

City Manager Mike McNeill said at some point Burlington will pay what is owed to the city. The taxes are attached to the property.

Meanwhile, the loss means, McNeill says, that the city will "probably trim services down as much as we can without cutting the level of services."

Raeford's fund balance is more than \$3.3 million, according to Baker.

Baker was paid \$7,750 to audit the city's books. Councilmen renewed his contract — at the same price — for another year.

One area where the city is working to streamline expenses is the fleet maintenance shop.

At the August meeting, Councilman Wayne Mills had asked why outside services are being utilized as opposed to work being done in the shop and also why some of those services are being done outside the county and the city.

McNeill had responded that more outside services were being used than he realized and that a change of supervisors should help the situation. He also told councilmen that repairs and maintenance of larger equipment and vehicles require the work of outside vendors and specialized services not always found in Raeford and Hoke.

(See CITY AUDIT, page 9A)



## Prayer at the high school flag pole

Approximately 50 Hoke High School students and faculty gathered at the school's flag pole this morning to pray before school as part of the national movement, "See You at the Flag Pole." Begun by a small group of teenagers in Texas in 1990, the first official event was held last Sept. 11 at 7 a.m. when more than one million students gathered at schools around the world. Millions more are expected to take part this year in events held this week and next.